

NSC BRIEFING

25X1 20 February 1957

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

I. Egypt:

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- A. [ ] Nasr still worried about policy changes in USSR, despite Soviet attempts to reassure him.
- B. In addition to other problems the Egyptians must also be polishing arguments they wish to use on King Saud, who is now scheduled to meet with Nasr, Jordan's King Hussain, and Syrian leaders on 26 February in Cairo.

II. Saudi Arabia:

- A. Egyptian newspaper alleges Soviet ambassador in Cairo will invite Saud to visit Moscow.
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- [ ]

III. Libya:

- A. Turkish-Libyan talks last week apparently went very well from Turkish and Western viewpoint.
- B. Libyan prime minister said he was fed up with Egyptian interference and intends to follow up on a project to unite North African states (Tunisia, Morocco) into a bloc which would stand up against Nasr.

**IV. Yemen:**

B. Meanwhile, a ship with more arms for Yemen is enroute from Suez.

1. A planeload of arms, probably of Czech or Soviet origin, is already believed to have passed through Jidda to Yemen.

C. Egyptian military mission to the Yemenis has been strengthened.

1. [redacted] Soviet bloc contingent there failed in training mission because of language and personality problems.

**V. Syria-Lebanon:**

A. Assassination in Beirut of Ghassan Jadid, leader of extreme right-wing Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party, has heightened tension between Syria and Lebanon.

1. Trouble already brewing over asylum given by Lebanese to fugitives from Damascus "treason" trials.

B. Jadid was wanted in Syria both for trial in connection with alleged plotting with Iraqis and for part in murder last spring of Col. Malki, very bright young reform-minded officer who was a hero of left-wing army elements.

C. Lebanese security forces apparently also embarrassed by persons firing on Syrian army convoys driving through Lebanon.

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